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Third session
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:

1. Election of the President.

2. Election of other officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Credentials of delegations.

5. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers.

6. Arrangements for the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat:

   (a) Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany;

   (b) Medium-term strategy of the secretariat.

7. Programme and budget:

   (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001;

   (b) Related budget decisions;

   (c) Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1999;

   (d) Programme of work for the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

8. Implementation of the Convention:

   (a) Review of reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

   (b) Consideration of progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa;

   (c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(d) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(e) Review of the report by the secretariat on its activities in assisting developing country Parties in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention;

(f) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention.

9. Committee on Science and Technology:

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(b) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;

(c) Maintenance of the roster of experts;

(d) Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference.

10. Global Mechanism:

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it;

(b) Consideration of, with a view to adopting, the revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

(c) Review of the report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development on its collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other interested organizations, including the private sector.

11. Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies.

12. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.

13. Outstanding items:

(a) Consideration and approval of the rule of procedure not yet agreed upon: rule 47;

(b) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(c) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention;

(d) Consideration of the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures.

14. Report of the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

Venue

2. By its decision 24/COP.2[1], the Conference of the Parties (COP) accepted the invitation of the Government of Brazil to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 3) to the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in Recife. The session will be opened by the Executive Secretary at the Convention Centre of Pernambuco, Recife, on Monday, 15 November 1999.

Logistic arrangements

3. A few weeks before the opening of COP 3, the secretariat will distribute an information note detailing registration and security procedures, as well as other logistic arrangements for the session.

Participants

4. In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2, of the CCD, for each State or regional economic integration organization which ratifies, accepts or approves the CCD or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the CCD enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of the relevant instrument. Consequently, the Parties as of the opening of COP 3 on 15 November will be the States and regional economic integration organizations that have deposited their instruments by 17 August 1999. Those which deposit their instruments after 17 August 1999 and by 28 August 1999 will become Parties during COP 3. Those that do so after 28 August 1999 will not become Parties until after the closure of the session but can participate in the session as observers, along with United Nations specialized agencies, accredited intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Relevant information on the status of ratifications is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.4.

Agenda

5. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to include in the agenda for its third session certain selected items and other standing items on its agenda. These have been taken into account in the provisional agenda prepared for COP 3, in addition to issues arising from other decisions.

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[1] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see document ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1.

Documentation

6. A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's World Wide Web site at the following address on the Internet: <http://www.unccd.de>.

1. Election of the President

7. Rule 22 of the rules of procedure adopted by the COP (decision 1/COP.1[2] as amended by decision 20/COP.2) provides for the election of the President from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary will call for the election of the President.

2. Election of other officers

8. Pursuant to rule 22 of the rules of procedure (as amended by decision 20/COP.2), nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology, who, with the President, are to serve as the Bureau of the session, shall be elected from the representatives of the Parties present at the session, in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. The President will call for the election of these officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The COP will have before it the above provisional agenda, which it may consider adopting. Annex II contains a tentative schedule of work for the session, on which the subsections below elaborate.

Purpose of the session

10. The Conference of the Parties, at its second session, adopted a decision on its programme of work (decision 2/COP.2), which included standing as well as selected items for discussion at COP 3. These items have been incorporated in the provisional agenda. The CCD provides, in article 22, paragraph 2(a), that the COP shall regularly review the implementation of the CCD and the functioning of its institutional arrangements. The organization of work of the session is designed to facilitate such activities, focussing attention on outstanding issues requiring resolution.

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[2] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

Opening meeting

11. As to the structure of the opening plenary, the COP may wish to consider the following scenario. The President would make a statement after his or her election. Statements would be made on behalf of regional groups, to be followed by an opportunity for statements by representatives of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and one representative of non-governmental organizations. The Executive Secretary would then present an overview of issues before COP 3, introduce the documents prepared by the secretariat, and present a status report on ratifications of, or accessions to the CCD.

Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and allocation of its tasks

12. The practice followed at COP 2 was to establish a sessional Committee of the Whole (COW), chaired by a Vice-President of the COP and open to participation of all delegations. This could be done at COP 3. The Committee of the Whole would recommend decisions on outstanding issues for adoption by the COP. Its Chair would have the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups. Accordingly, the COP may wish to establish a Committee of the Whole at its opening plenary and to designate its Chair. The COP could allocate to the Committee of the Whole the following items: programme and budget, consideration of an additional regional implementation annex, the unagreed rule of procedure referred to below, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation, consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, and any other issue.

Committee on Science and Technology

13. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) is tentatively scheduled to meet from 16 to 18 November. In accordance with decision 12/COP.2, the secretariat has prepared document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1 containing a provisional annotated agenda for the Committee's work, as well as other documents needed for its deliberations, which are listed in annex I.

Initial segment

14. It is proposed in the tentative schedule that COP 3 be divided into two segments. During the initial segment from 15 to 19 November, in addition to the CST meeting, the Committee of the Whole would advance in its work in accordance with the agenda of the COP. The plenary would meet on Friday 19 November to hear reports from the Committee of the Whole and the CST, to take all possible decisions on issues before the COP, to review the organization of work for the second week, and to provide for further meetings of the Committee of the Whole if necessary.

Special segment on Convention implementation

15. At the special segment on 22, 23 and the morning of 24 November, Parties with representation at the appropriate level would have an opportunity to review and make statements on the implementation of the Convention.

16. By its decision 2/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties decided to review the implementation of the Convention in the African region, on the basis of submissions made by the affected African country Parties, which would also be undertaken during the special segment. Document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 contains a compilation of such submissions prepared by the secretariat.

17. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to review also the implementation of the Convention, on the basis of submissions made by the developed country Parties, by relevant United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in support of the preparation of action programmes, which would also be undertaken during the special segment. Documents ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1 and ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3 contain a compilation of such submissions prepared by the secretariat. The special segment could also take decisions on any issues remaining outstanding after the first week.

Parallel event

19. An interparliamentary round table on the contribution parliaments can make to the implementation of the Convention is planned for Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 November 1999. It would involve the participation of parliamentarians from a number of countries. It is anticipated that any outcome from the round table would be communicated to the COP for consideration.

Concluding plenary

19. The concluding plenary of COP 3 will take any decisions not previously adopted. It will also have before it for adoption the report on credentials to be submitted by the Bureau. Finally, it will have to decide upon the date and venue of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, taking account of:

(a) Article 22, paragraph 4 of the CCD which provides that, unless otherwise decided by the COP, the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions shall be held yearly;

(b) Rule 4, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure, which provides that, at each ordinary session, the COP shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary session and that the COP should endeavour not to hold such sessions at a time which would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult;

(c) Rule 3 of the rules of procedure, which states that the sessions of the COP shall take place at the seat of the secretariat, unless the COP decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the secretariat in consultation with the Parties;

(d) Decision 1/COP.2, which provides that the fifth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties shall take place in the year 2001, and that, thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years; and

(e) Any offers to host the fourth session and cover the incremental costs thereof.

20. The proposed schedule allows for the afternoon of 25 November to be available for the preparation of final documents for consideration and decision at the final plenary on the morning of 26 November. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by the lunch break on 25 November.

Times of meetings

21. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provision has been made for evening or weekend sessions. Consistent with local working hours and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of COP 3 will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings to be held with interpretation services at any one time.

4. Credentials of delegations

22. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure provides: "The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization." Rule 20 of the rules of procedure provides: "The Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision." In addition, rule 21 provides: "Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials."

5. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers

23. Article 22, paragraph 7 of the CCD provides: "The United Nations, its specialized agencies and any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object". Rule 7 of the rules of procedure contains provisions to similar effect.

24. Decision 26/COP.1 contains provisions on accrediting non-governmental organizations and according observer status to intergovernmental organizations to the first and subsequent sessions of the COP. In accordance with these procedures, document ICCD/COP(3)/15 contains a list of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations newly proposed for accreditation at the COP.

6. Arrangements for the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat

(a) Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany

25. By its decision 4/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties approved the headquarters agreement signed on 18 August 1998 with the Federal Republic of Germany, and requested the Executive Secretary to report to COP 3 on its ratification and entry into force. Document ICCD/COP(3)/8 contains the relevant information on this matter.

(b) Medium-term strategy of the secretariat

26. By its decision 7/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties asked the Executive Secretary to prepare a new document on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat on the basis of observations made during the second session, as well as of written submissions by the Parties. Document ICCD/COP(3)/6 is submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

7. Programme and budget

(a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001

27. Article 22, paragraph 2(g) of the Convention calls on the COP to approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake necessary arrangements for their financing. At its second session, the COP approved by its decision 6/COP.2 the revised core budget of the Convention for 1999 and the establishment of a new trust fund for the special annual contribution from the Government of Germany, and requested the Executive Secretary

to submit to COP 3 a proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/2.

28. By the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the financial performance of the Convention. The related information is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/4.

(b) Related budget decisions

29. As detailed in document ICCD/COP(3)/2, the decision on programme and budget that the COP will consider for adoption will contain all elements required by the CCD and the Financial Rules of the COP.

(c) Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1999

30. By its decision 6/COP.2, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the status of the Trust Funds established under the Financial Rules. Document ICCD/COP(3)/3 provides actual and estimated expenditures in 1999 from the Trust Fund, the Special Voluntary Fund and the Bonn Fund. Additionally, a summary report on expenditures from the same funds from 1993 to 1998, is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.2.

(d) Programme of work for the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties

31. By its decision 2/COP.2 the Conference of the Parties decided to include in the agenda of its fourth session and, if necessary, of its fifth session the review of national, regional and subregional action programmes in regions other than Africa. The COP may wish to review this programme of work for the next sessions as appropriate.

8. Implementation of the Convention

32. In accordance with article 22, paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b), and article 26, of the Convention, the COP is to review implementation of the CCD and its institutional arrangements. Participants will have an opportunity to conduct such a review during the special segment on Convention implementation. The secretariat has updated the information contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/5 on its activities in supporting the implementation of the Convention, and this report is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/5.

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes

33. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided that the review of implementation of the Convention would be conducted at its third session on the basis of reports by affected African country Parties. In accordance with procedures contained in decision 11/COP.1, the secretariat has compiled a summary of such reports and a synthesis setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention. This information is contained in document

(b) Consideration of progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa

34. By the same decision 2/COP.2, the COP also decided to consider at its third session the progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa. The secretariat prepared the document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5 on the basis of information submitted by African intergovernmental organizations.

(c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention

35. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to review the measures undertaken by developed country Parties in assisting the preparation and implementation of action programmes. Document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1 provides a compilation of reports received by the Parties.

(d) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention

36. By the same decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to review the activities of United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes. The secretariat has prepared document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3 on information provided by such organizations.

37. By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include, as a standing item on its agenda, a review of available information on the financing of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention. There

will be an opportunity during the special segment on Convention implementation for relevant agencies and institutions to give information on support they have provided, including financial support, to affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention by those Parties.

(e) Review of the report by the secretariat on its activities in assisting developing country Parties in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention

38. The information related to activities of the secretariat in supporting developing country Parties in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.4. In addition, the secretariat has prepared a help guide for national reporting, and this is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3.

(f) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

39. By its decision 10/COP.2, the COP decided to consider at its third session the need to establish additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist it in its task of regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, as contained in decision 10/COP.1, on the basis of written submissions by the Parties. The secretariat has compiled the submissions and this report is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/17.

(g) Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention

40. By its decision 11/COP.2, the COP invited the countries of central and eastern Europe to pursue consultations with a view to producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention and to submit such a draft for consideration by the COP at its third session. This is presented in document ICCD/COP(3)/16 for discussion and any action the COP may wish to take.

9. Committee on Science and Technology

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it

(b) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes

41. In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, the review of the CST report constitutes a standing item on the agenda of the COP. The report of the Committee will describe the CST work programme in the period after COP 3. The CST will also be transmitting to it draft decisions resulting from the deliberations at its second session. The COP may wish to discuss the programme of work, make suggestions for its revision and provide any necessary guidance to the CST.

(c) Maintenance of the roster of experts

42. Article 24, paragraph 2 of the CCD provides that the COP shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. Procedures related to the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts were adopted by the COP by its decision 18/COP.1. In accordance with decision 13/COP.2, Parties were invited to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas were addressed, in particular by: (a) making the roster more balanced in terms of gender equity; (b) ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines; (c) increasing representation of experts from non-governmental and international organizations. The updated roster is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/14 and Add.1 and is being made available in electronic form in accordance with decision 13/COP.2.

(d) Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference

43. Article 24, paragraph 3 of the CCD provides for the creation of ad hoc panels as necessary by the Conference of the Parties. In decision 14/COP.2, the COP appointed an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge. After considering the report of the CST, the COP may wish to consider appointing ad hoc panels, including reappointing the ad hoc panel already established, as necessary, in accordance with the procedures contained in decision 17/COP.1 for the establishment of ad hoc panels.

10. Global Mechanism

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it

44. By its decision 18/COP.2, the COP decided to undertake, at its third session, the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, with a view to considering and taking appropriate action on this matter. This could be done on the basis of the report on the Global Mechanism contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/11.

45. By the same decision, the COP requested the Global Mechanism to establish an ongoing process for consultation and collaboration with non-governmental

organizations as well as with the private sector, and to submit a report to the COP at its third session for consideration and to take appropriate action. The report from the Global Mechanism is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/11/Add.1, in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Convention and decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1.

(b) Consideration of, with a view to adopting, the revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development

46. By decision 19/COP.2, the secretariat was requested to continue consultations on the text of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and to submit a revised draft memorandum of understanding for consideration and decision by the COP at its third session. The revised draft memorandum of understanding is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/10.

47. By the same decision, the COP decided to transmit to its third session the draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19, concerning the adoption and entry into force of the draft memorandum of understanding between COP and IFAD as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1. A draft decision is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/10/Add.1 for consideration and any action the COP may wish to take.

(c) Review of the report by the International Fund for Agriculture Development on its collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other interested organizations, including the private sector

48. By decision 18/COP.2, IFAD was invited to pursue modalities of collaboration with the community of non-governmental organizations and other interested organizations, including the private sector, and to report accordingly. The report from IFAD is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/12.

11. Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

49. By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include the topic of the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention as a standing item on its agenda.

50. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided also to undertake at its third session a review of the activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies. The related information is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/9.

51. In addition, the secretariat has prepared a report on relations and synergies with the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and decision 14/COP.1. This is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/9/Add.1.

12. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

52. By decision 27/COP.1, the COP requested that additional open dialogue sessions organized by non-governmental organizations occur within the official programme of work of future sessions of the COP, and that the secretariat of the Convention make all efforts to facilitate inclusion of at least two such half-day sessions within the official programme of work. Such sessions would be organized in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the COP through the President. Half-day sessions have been tentatively scheduled for the afternoons of Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 November 1999.

53. The COP may wish to consider requesting the secretariat, drawing on discussions at COP 2 and in consultation with the non-governmental organizations community, to develop a draft work programme on this item for consideration at COP 4.

13. Outstanding items

(a) Consideration and approval of the rules of procedure not yet agreed upon: rule 47

54. In accordance with article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the CCD, the COP shall "agree upon and adopt, by consensus, rules of procedure ... for itself and any subsidiary bodies." At its first session, by its decision 1/COP.1, the COP decided to adopt its rules of procedure, with the exception of some paragraphs contained in rules 22, 31 and 47. At its second session, by its decision 20/COP.2, the COP amended the text of rules 22 and 31. By its decision 21/COP.2, the COP decided also to further consider paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure not yet agreed upon. The text resulting from this decision is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/13. The COP may wish to give further consideration to this outstanding issue and adopt by consensus the rule of procedure not yet agreed upon.

(b) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward

55. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to include in the agenda of its third session the consideration, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation. Document

ICCD/COP(3)/18 contains a report prepared by the secretariat on this matter. The report includes a draft text, which takes into account document A/AC.241/50, which was previously considered by members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD) at its eighth session.

(c) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention

56. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to include in the agenda of its third session the consideration, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the CCD, of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures. By its decision 22/COP.2, the COP also decided to consider this issue further at its third session, in the light of progress of the negotiations on the same issues in other relevant environmental conventions. The report contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/7 includes draft texts which take into account document A/AC.241/51 which was previously presented to members of the INCD at its eighth session.

(d) Consideration of the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures

57. By its decision 22/COP.2, the COP decided to consider at its third session the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures, taking into account the document prepared by the secretariat. Reference to this matter is made in document ICCD/COP(3)/7.

14. Report of the session

58. A draft report on the session will be prepared for adoption at the final plenary, in accordance with established practice. The COP is invited to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OF RELEVANCE

ICCD/COP(3)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(3)/2	Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001
ICCD/COP(3)/3	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards to the Supplementary Fund, Special Fund and Bonn Fund
ICCD/COP(3)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards to the Supplementary Fund, Special Fund and Bonn Fund
ICCD/COP(3)/4	Financial performance of 1999 budget (January-June)
ICCD/COP(3)/5	Review of the implementation of the Convention, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1	Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist affected African country Parties in the preparation and implementation of action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3	Information provided by United Nations organisations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on their support to the preparation and implementation of action programmes in Africa
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.4	Assistance provided by the secretariat to developing country Parties in preparation of national reports
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5	Progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa
ICCD/COP(3)/6	Medium-term strategy of the secretariat (revised)
ICCD/COP(3)/7	Procedures for resolution of questions, arbitration and conciliation
ICCD/COP(3)/8	Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany
ICCD/COP(3)/9	Collaboration with other international bodies and conventions
ICCD/COP(3)/9/Add.1	Relations between the secretariat and the Global Environment Facility
ICCD/COP(3)/10	Revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICCD/COP(3)/10/Add.1	Adoption and entry into force of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICCD/COP(3)/11	Report on policies, operational strategy, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(3)/11/Add.1	Report by the Global Mechanism on consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector

ICCD/COP(3)/12	Report by IFAD on collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other organizations, including the private sector
ICCD/COP(3)/13	Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(3)/14	Roster of independent experts: note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(3)/14/Add.1	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(3)/15	List of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation as observers
ICCD/COP(3)/16	Draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for central and eastern European countries
ICCD/COP(3)/17	Establishment of additional procedures and/or institutional mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(3)/18	Procedure and institutional mechanism for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(3)/19	Credentials of delegations: report of the Bureau to the COP
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.2	Extrabudgetary funds: summary report 1993-1998 (update of document ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.2)
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3	UNCCD National Reports Help Guide
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.4	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.5	UNCCD directory of focal points

List of documents prepared for the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2	Synthesis on important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3	Report by the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1	Linkage of the work of CCD on traditional knowledge with that of related conventions
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.2	Report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5	Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST: potential areas of cooperation between CCD and other bodies
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6	Report on existing experiences of early-warning systems and on specialised institutions acting in this field

Other documents:

Second session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(2)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(2)/2	Programme and budget
ICCD/COP(2)/3	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(2)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(2)/4	Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1	Global Mechanism: memorandum of understanding
ICCD/COP(2)/5	Review of implementation, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(2)/6	Medium-term strategy for the secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/7	Collaboration with other conventions
ICCD/COP(2)/8	Headquarters arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.1	Headquarters arrangements: agreement
ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.2	Headquarters arrangements: relocation and possible liaison arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/9	Report on institutional and interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and the Convention secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/10	Resolution of questions, arbitration and conciliation procedures
ICCD/COP(2)/11	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(2)/11/Add.1	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(2)/12	List of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations recommended for accreditation as observers
ICCD/COP(2)/13	Credentials of delegations
ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1	Credentials of delegations
ICCD/COP(2)/14	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session (Part One)
ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session (Part Two)
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.2	Extrabudgetary funds: summary report (1993-1997)
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.3	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.4	Preliminary list of focal points

Second session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(2)CST/3	Report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators: report of ad hoc panel

ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5	Traditional knowledge

First session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(1)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session (Part One)
ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session (Part Two)

Selected other documents for reference at the third session of the Conference of the Parties

Documents prepared for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD):

A/AC.241/44	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/54/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
A/AC.241/63	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location

Others:

Eighth session

A/AC.241/43	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/50	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation
A/AC.241/51	Procedures for conciliation and arbitration

Ninth session

A/AC.241/56	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/58	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention

Tenth session (first part)

A/AC.241/68	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in implementation of the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/INF.4	Report on ongoing work being done on benchmarks and indicators

Reports of INCD sessions:

A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the INCD on its fifth session
A/50/74	Report of the INCD on its sixth session
A/50/74/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its seventh session
A/50/76	Report of the INCD on its eighth session
A/51/76/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its ninth session
A/52/82	Report of the INCD on its tenth session (first part)
A/52/82/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its tenth session (resumed part)

General Assembly resolutions:

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

- Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/115 of 19 December 1994

- Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 51/238 of 17 June 1997

- Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188

Resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997

- Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Any relevant resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Monday 15 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Informal consultations	1. Opening of the Conference by Executive Secretary of CCD 2. Election of President of COP 3. Statement by the President 4. Statement by Under-Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations 5. Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 6. Statement by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization 7. Statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development 8. Statement by the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility 9. Statements by other heads of United Nations agencies and programmes and executive secretaries of convention secretariats 10. Statement by representative of non-governmental organizations 11. Statement by Executive Secretary of CCD 12. Adoption of the agenda (ICCD/COP(3)/1) 13. Election of other officers, including Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology 14. Adoption of organization of work and establishment of Committee of the Whole (ICCD/COP(3)/1) 15. Admission of observers and accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations (ICCD/COP(3)/15)
COW	- -	- -
CST	- -	- -

Tuesday 16 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Other statements by Parties and observers	To be determined
COW	To be determined	- Organization of work including review of outstanding items - Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (ICCD/COP(3)/2)
CST	- Organization of work (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1) - Establishment of roster of experts (ICCD/COP(3)/14 and Add.1) - Survey and evaluation of networks (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4)	- Bodies doing work of relevance to CST (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5) - Benchmarks and indicators (ICCD/COP(3)/5) - Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2 and ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3)

Wednesday 17 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- -	- -
COW	- Extrabudgetary funding (ICCD/COP(3)/3) - Financial performance of 1999 (ICCD/COP(3)/3) - Headquarters arrangements (ICCD/COP(3)/8) - Medium-term strategy of the secretariat (ICCD/COP(3)/6)	- Implementation of the Convention: reports from affected African country Parties (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2)
CST	- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1 and Add.2)	- Early warning systems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6)

Thursday 18 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- -	- -
COW	- Implementation of the Convention: reports from affected African country Parties (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2)	- Implementation of the Convention: subregional and regional action programmes in Africa (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5)
CST	- Early warning systems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6) - Creation of ad hoc panel(s) - Drafting of recommendations to COP	- Programme of work for CST - Adoption of recommendations to COP

Friday 19 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	To be determined	- Arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat: headquarters agreement with Germany and medium-term strategy - Report of Committee of the Whole - Report of CST
COW	- Implementation of the Convention: developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1 and Add.3)	To be determined
CST	To be determined	- -

	Monday 22 November 1999	
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Reports from affected African country Parties	Special segment on implementation of the Convention : - Reports from affected African country Parties
COW	- Report on the Global Mechanism (ICCD/COP(3)/11 and Add.1) - Report by IFAD (ICCD/COP(3)/12) - Revised draft MOU between COP and IFAD (ICCD/COP(3)/10 and Add.1)	- Activities of secretariat to assist developing country Parties on the preparation of national reports (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.4) - Relationship with other conventions and bodies (ICCD/COP(3)/9)
CST	- -	- -

	Tuesday 23 November 1999	
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa - Reports from developed country Parties on measures to assist in the implementation of national action programmes	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Reports from United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on activities to assist in the implementation of national action programmes
COW	- Additional regional implementation annex to the Convention (ICCD/COP(3)/16)	- Rule 47 of rules of procedure (ICCD/COP(3)/13) - Procedures for resolution of questions of implementation (ICCD/COP(3)/18)
CST	- -	- -

Wednesday 24 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Report of the Round Table of Parliamentarians	- Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official COP work programme
COW	- Annex for conciliation and arbitration procedures (ICCD/COP(3)/7) - Establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group (ICCD/COP(3)/7)	- Programme of work for COP 4 and COP 5
CST	- -	- -

Thursday 25 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Report on conclusions of the Committee of the Whole - Outstanding rules of procedure	- Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official work programme of the COP
COW	To be determined	To be determined
CST	- -	- -

Friday 26 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Adoption of conclusions of the Committee of the Whole - Other actions to be taken by the COP - Report of the session	To be determined
COW	To be determined	- -
CST	- -	- -

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/1/Corr.1
7 October 1999

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

Corrigendum

Paragraph 1

Item 7(c) should read Report on the status of the trust funds in 1999

Page 8, fourth paragraph

The paragraph number should read 18

Paragraph 27

For the last sentence, substitute

The programme budget proposed by the Executive Secretary is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/2. Document ICCD/COP(3)/2/Add.1 provides cost plans for the biennium for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund.

Paragraph 28, line 3

After ICCD/COP(3)/4, insert and Add.1

Page 11

Heading (c) should read *Report on the status of the trust funds in 1999*

Paragraph 30

For the existing text, substitute

30. By its decision 6/COP.2, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the status of the trust funds established under the Financial Rules. Document ICCD/COP(3)/3 provides actual and estimated expenditures in 1999 under the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund. Additionally, a summary report on expenditures from 1993 to 1998 under the trust funds established by General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.2.

Paragraph 33

The last sentence should read

This information is contained in documents ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 and Add.2 (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E).

Paragraph 35

For the last sentence, substitute

Document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1 provides a compilation of reports received from Parties by 2 July 1999. Further contributions are contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.6.

Paragraph 45

The last sentence should read

The relevant information about this matter is contained in the same document, ICCD/COP(3)/11.

Paragraph 47

The last sentence should read

The draft decision is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)10 for consideration and any action the COP may wish to take.

Annex I, first list of documents

The title of document ICCD/COP(3)/3 should read Report on the status of the trust funds in 1999

Insert in the list

ICCD/COP(3)/4/Add.1	Financial performance of 1999 budget (January-June)
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 (A)	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 (B)	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 (C)	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 (D)	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 (E)	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.6	Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist affected African country Parties in the preparation and implementation of action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/Misc.1	The system of traditional knowledge in the Mediterranean and its classification with reference to different social groupings

Annex II, table entries for the Committee of the Whole

16 November 1999, p.m., line 4, after ICCD/COP(3)/2 insert and Add.1

17 November 1999, a.m., line 4, for ICCD/COP(3)/3 read (ICCD/COP(3)/4)

19 November 1999, a.m., line 9, after Add.3 insert and ICCD/COP(3)/INF.6

22 November 1999, a.m., lines 3 and 8, delete and Add.1

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

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26 July 1999

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Item 7(a) of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 6/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its second session approved a revised core budget for the Convention for 1999 amounting to US$ 6,100,000, including United Nations administrative overhead charges and provision for a working capital reserve. Under the terms of this decision, the COP also decided, *inter alia*, to:

(a) Take note of offsetting contributions from the Government of Germany amounting to US$ 546,400;

(b) Approve the creation of a new trust fund for the special annual contribution of DM 1 million from the Government of Germany;

(c) Approve the staffing table for the secretariat under the 1999 core budget, comprising 21 posts in the Professional and higher categories and 11 posts in the General Service category;

(d) Request the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session (COP 3) on the financial performance of the secretariat for 1999;

(e) Further request the Executive Secretary to submit to COP 3 a proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, which should include a contingency provision for conference servicing costs in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the regular United Nations budget for that biennium; a specific request to the General Assembly to provide those resources is contained in decision 3/COP.2, paragraph 3;

(f) Take note of the estimated requirements for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund of the Convention submitted by the Executive Secretary, and request the Executive Secretary to report to COP 3 on the status of these trust funds established under the financial rules.

2. In regard to the work programme of the Conference, by decision 2/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties decided to include a number of selected items in the agenda of its fourth and, if necessary, fifth sessions.

3. In the light of the above decisions, the Executive Secretary submits herewith, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, a proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. Document ICCD/COP(3)/2/Add.1 contains information on the estimated requirements for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund for the forthcoming biennium.

4. The report on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999 will be provided in document ICCD/COP(3)/4 at a later date in order that it may contain as recent financial information as possible.

II. OVERVIEW

5. As regards the core budget, total resource requirements for the biennium 2000-2001, including programme support costs and working capital reserves but excluding possible conference servicing costs, are estimated at US$ 20,392,600 (US$ 8,631,100 for 2000 and US$ 11,760,900 for 2001). This reflects a growth in the costs of UNCCD secretariat programmes costs of 35 per cent per year of the biennium and a growth in the costs of the office of the Global Mechanism of 66.8 per cent in 2000 and 41.4 per cent in 2001.

6. The increases in the draft programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001 are proposed to meet the growing needs to facilitate implementation of the Convention in response to the expressed solicitations from affected Parties, particularly in Africa. The main programme activities are proposed in response to decisions 11/COP.1, 2/COP.2 and 5/COP.2 of the Conference of the Parties emphasizing facilitation of the preparation of the national reports and compiling the reports for COP 4 and COP 5. The proposed programme also facilitates the acceleration of the preparation of national, subregional and regional action programmes and support to the countries of eastern and central Europe as they become Parties to the Convention following decision 9/COP.2. It also reflects increasing tasks of the secretariat to serve effectively the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). Effective implementation of the Convention requires strengthening of policy coordination and cooperation with other conventions, United Nations bodies and other international organizations. The two main emphases of the programme and budget are the following:

(a) The proposed programme and budget will facilitate the preparation of the national reports on the implementation of the Convention in the Asian and Pacific, Latin American and Caribbean regions in 2000. In 2001 the assistance may be provided upon request for updating the reports of 1999 by affected Parties in the African region. The main emphasis will be on facilitation of preparation of national and subregional and regional action programmes upon request by the affected Parties. Special attention will be given to accelerating the preparation and implementing of the regional programmes and cooperation between the regions in accordance with decision 9/COP.2.

(b) The programme and budget reflects the decisions on the work programme of the CST by COP 1 and 2. A report on the first stage of the survey on the relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to participate in a network to support the implementation of the Convention will be presented to the third session of the Conference of the Parties. The proposed programme will recommend for consideration of COP 3 a second phase of the survey. It also envisages the continuation of the work on traditional knowledge and early-warning systems, the latter being the priority issue to be addressed by the CST at its third session (decision 12/COP.2).

7. The proposed programme and budget also seeks to strengthen the administrative capacity of the secretariat to respond effectively to the demands placed upon it by the Parties. The proposals in the programme and budget intended to improve the secretariat's management and information capacity are the following:

(a) Provision for the installation and maintenance in Bonn of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), a customized system to support the requirements of the United Nations in matters of human resources and finance;

(b) Provision for strengthening the ability of the secretariat to produce and distribute information to key participants in the UNCCD process and to enable the timely and regular maintenance of the present databases and the UNCCD web site, and to develop electronic forums for each regional programme; and

(c) Provision for training and improving the staff's skills, including in the working languages of the United Nations, in the use of the IMIS and other computer systems, and in management and other work-related skills.

8. As regards the programme structure, only one minor change is proposed, which is the hosting of the information systems support in the External Relations and Public Information Unit. This is intended to strengthen the secretariat's capacity in the field of policy coordination and cooperation with other conventions, United Nations bodies and other international organizations.

9. The core programme and budget are presented in the main body of the document. The global summary of the overall core resource requirements for the next biennium are provided in table 1 by programmes and in table 2 by object of expenditure. Table 3 provides a summary of total UNCCD post requirements and chart 1 contains the proposed core staffing in 2000 and 2001. These are followed by programme descriptions and core budget estimates for 2000 and 2001 for each of the programmes. Each programme is then discussed in turn, headed by a summary table showing resource requirements (net of programme support costs) for the programme by object of expenditure. A summary of post requirements is likewise provided per programme.

10. In addition, the proposed budget includes a provision for contingency for conference servicing costs for each year of the biennium 2000-2001. The proposed programme budgets concerning COP 4 and COP 5 are made with the assumption that these would be hosted by Parties away from Bonn. In the event that such is not the case and in the added event that the United Nations General Assembly decides to cease financing the conference services of the sessions of the COP, additional resources for conference services would be required. These are provided for under "Contingency" in chapter IV of this document. The request to the United Nations General Assembly to provide conference services to the fourth and fifth sessions of the COP are included in the report of the Secretary General to the 54th session of the General Assembly on the outcome of COP 2.

11. The financial data in this document reflect standard salary costs established in Bonn (with common staff costs based on actual UNCCD expenditure), using the United Nations assumed rate of exchange of DM 1.76 per United States dollar. This rate will be adjusted, as and when required, in revised estimates to be submitted to the COP at its fourth session.

12. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, information concerning planned activities and estimated requirements in the next biennium to be financed under the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund are provided in document ICCD/COP(3)/2/Add.1.

13. In addition to the above trust funds, a third trust fund (Bonn Fund) has been established in accordance with the terms contained in the offer of the German Government to host the secretariat. Germany will contribute DM 1 million for Convention events organized by the secretariat. Cost plans for this fund are developed and discussed with the German Government.

14. The move of the secretariat from Geneva to Bonn at the end of January 1999 was facilitated by the generous support and cooperation of the Government of Germany and the assistance provided by the secretariats of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The fact that 19 UNCCD staff members decided to move with the secretariat was also instrumental in ensuring an adequate level of continuity of service to the COP and the UNCCD process. All remaining core budget posts are now filled or encumbered.

III. SUMMARY TABLES AND CHART

Table 1. Estimated resource requirements by programme
General Fund (core budget)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Programmes	2000	2001	Total (2000-2001)
UNCCD programmes			
Policy-making organs	55.0	55.0	110.0
Executive direction and management	816.9	871.0	1,687.9
Substantive support to COP and its subsidiary bodies	801.1	1,633.5	2,434.6
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	1,929.6	2,771.0	4,700.6
External relations and public information	516.1	673.3	1,189.4
Administration and finance	1,566.1	1,676.2	3,242.3
Subtotal UNCCD secretariat programmes	**5,684.8**	**7,680.0**	**13,364.8**
Global Mechanism	1,750.0	2,500.0	4,250.0
Total programmes	7,434.8	10,180.0	17,614.8
Overhead	966.5	1,323.4	2,289.9
Working capital reserve	229.8[1]	257.5[2]	487.3
Total estimated resource requirements	**8,631.1**	**11,760.9**	**20,392.0**
Less			
Contribution from host Government	568.2	568.2	1,136.4
Net required amount	**8,062.9**	**11,192.7**	**19,255.6**

[1] 2000 working capital reserve: 697.3-467.5 available from 1999 = 229.8
[2] 2001 working capital reserve: 954.8-697.3 available from 2000 = 257.5

Table 2. Estimated resource requirements by object of expenditure
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff costs	3,922.7	4,558.4	8,481.1
Consultants and experts	383.0	841.3	1,224.3
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings	25.0	25.0	50.0
Official travel of staff	416.6	575.2	991.8
Contractual services	20.0	70.0	90.0
General operating expenses	308.5	308.0	616.5
Hospitality	19.0	20.0	39.0
Supplies and materials	60.0	100.0	160.0
Acquisition of equipment	120.0	100.0	220.0
Grants and contributions (UNCCD programmes)	150.0	732.1	882.1
Contributions to joint services	260.0	350.0	610.0
Subtotal UNCCD secretariat programmes	**5,684.8**	**7,680.0**	**13,364.8**
Grants and contributions (for Global Mechanism)	1750.0	2,500.0	4,250.0
Total programmes	**7,434.8**	**10,180.0**	**17,614.8**
Overhead	966.5	1,323.4	2,289.9
Working capital reserve	229.8[1]	257.5[2]	487.3
Total estimated resource requirements	**8,631.1**	**11,760.9**	**20,392.0**
Less			
Contribution from host Government	568.2	568.2	1,136.4
Net required amount	**8,062.9**	**11,192.7**	**19,255.6**

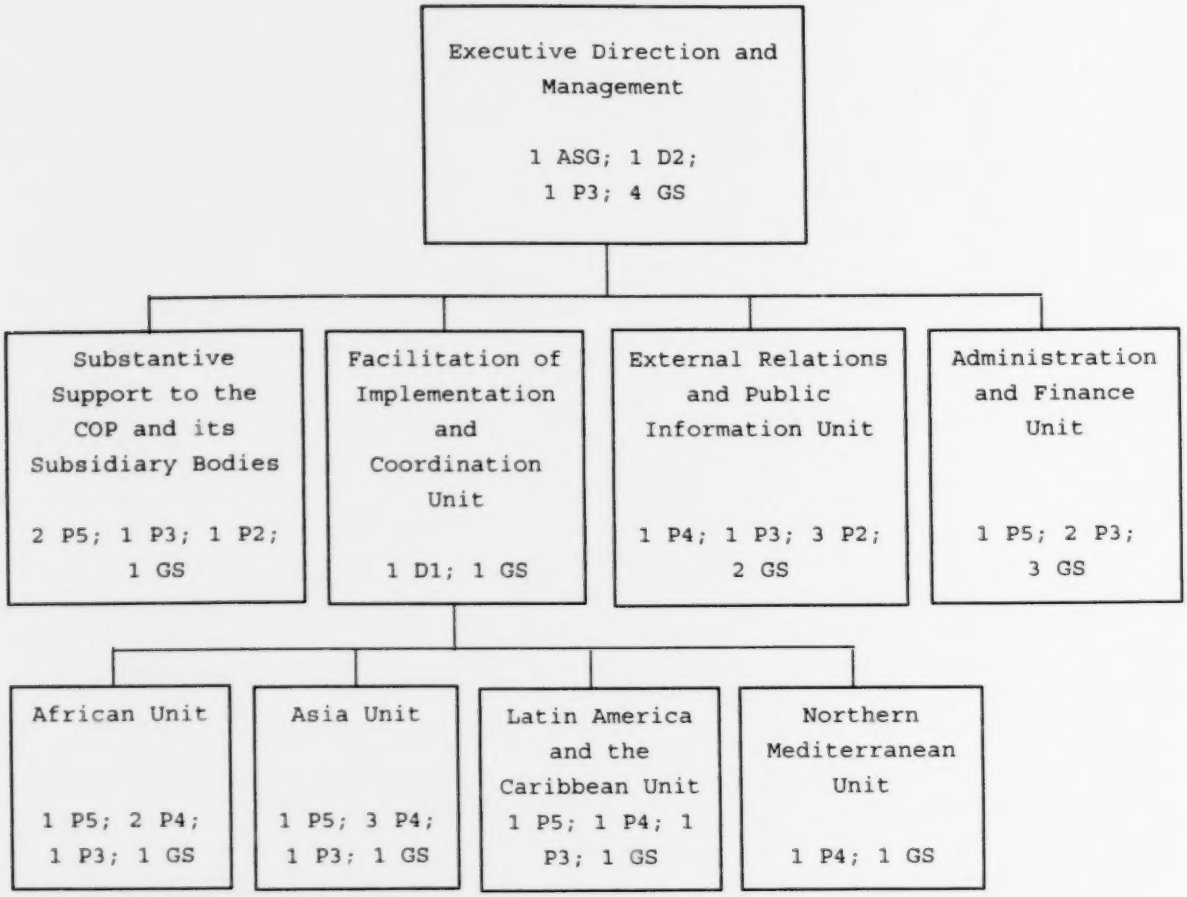
Table 3. UNCCD secretariat post requirements

A. Professional category and above	2000	2001
ASG	1	1
D-2	1	1
D-1	1	1
P-5	6	6
P-4	5	8
P-3	8	8
P-2	3	4
Subtotal A	**25**	**29**
B. General Service category	13	15
Total (A + B)	**38**	**44**

[1] 2000 working capital reserve: 697.3-467.5 available from 1999 = 229.8

[2] 2001 working capital reserve: 954.8-697.3 available from 1999 = 257.5

Chart 1. Proposed UNCCD core staffing for 2000-2001[1]


Executive Direction and Management
1 ASG; 1 D2; 1 P3; 4 GS
Substantive Support to the COP and its Subsidiary Bodies
2 P5; 1 P3; 1 P2; 1 GS
Facilitation of Implementation and Coordination Unit
1 D1; 1 GS
External Relations and Public Information Unit
1 P4; 1 P3; 3 P2; 2 GS
Administration and Finance Unit
1 P5; 2 P3; 3 GS
African Unit
1 P5; 2 P4; 1 P3; 1 GS
Asia Unit
1 P5; 3 P4; 1 P3; 1 GS
Latin America and the Caribbean Unit
1 P5; 1 P4; 1 P3; 1 GS
Northern Mediterranean Unit
1 P4; 1 GS

[1] Of the 44 posts, six will be filled only in 2001

IV. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2000-2001

A. Policy-making organs

Table 4. Resource requirements for policy-making organs (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Official travel of staff	40.0	40.0	80.0
Hospitality	15.0	15.0	30.0
Total resource requirements	**55.0**	**55.0**	**110.0**

15. The Conference of the Parties will continue to take up both "standing" and "selected" items, in particular concerning the progress made in the implementation of the Convention as well as new measures for promoting further progress. The Conference of the Parties (decision 2/COP.2) decided to include on the agenda of its fourth and, if necessary, its fifth session (a) the review of reports of affected country Parties of regions other than Africa and (b) the review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa. The fifth session may wish to consider the activities concerning the implementation of the Convention in the African region again.

16. As indicated in paragraph 10 above, resource requirements relating to conference services for the fourth and fifth sessions of the COP are provided as a contingency in chapter V of this document, as decision 6/COP.2 requested the Executive Secretary to include a contingency provision for conference servicing costs in the event that the United Nations General Assembly does not provide for those costs. The related amounts are, however, not included, at the present stage, in the total resource requirements presented in tables 1 and 2.

17. The Bureau will guide the secretariat in implementing decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its third and fourth sessions as well as assist in the preparation of the fourth and fifth sessions. Two meetings of the Bureau are envisaged annually.

18. Proposed resource requirements for this programme as detailed in table 4 relate to: travel of some technical secretariat staff to service sessions of the COP and hospitality tendered during sessions of the COP and Bureau meetings.

19. The travel costs of representatives of developing country Parties to attend the Conference of the Parties as well as the Bureau are included in the Special Fund for Participation.

B. Executive direction and management

Table 5. Resource requirements for executive direction and management (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	662.9	662.9	1,325.8
Official travel of staff	150.0	203.1	353.1
Hospitality	4.0	5.0	9.0
Total resources requirements	**816.9**	**871.0**	**1,687.9**

Table 6. Post requirements for executive direction and management

	2000	2001
A. Professional category and above		
Head (ASG)	1	1
D-2	1	1
D-1	-	-
P-3	1	1
Subtotal	**3**	**3**
B. General Service category	4	4
Total (A+B)	**7**	**7**

20. The executive direction and management programme provides for strengthening of the overall management, strategy development, coordination of the secretariat activities and guidance in programme and budget planning, as well as support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies. It also provides leadership in the strengthening of the cooperation with the United Nations, other international bodies as well as the non-governmental organizations (NGO) community.

21. It is proposed that the Executive Secretary would be assisted by a Deputy at the D-2 level. The office would comprise, in addition, a Special Assistant at the P-3 level and four General Service posts: secretaries to the Executive Secretary and the Deputy, a registration clerk and a messenger. The secretary to the Deputy Executive Secretary and the messenger are new posts which are proposed to be established in 2000. Upgrading the post of the Deputy Executive Secretary to the level of D-2 corresponds to the demanding duties entrusted to the Deputy in assisting and advising the Executive Secretary, particularly on further ways and means to promote actively an early and efficient facilitation of the implementation of the Convention. This would include close cooperation with affected Parties, developed country Parties, other international conventions dealing with sustainable development, the United Nations and other international bodies and NGOs. The secretary to the Deputy and the messenger are needed for the smooth and efficient functioning of the executive direction and management.

22. Apart from staff-related costs, resource requirements for the programme include official travel of staff and hospitality offered during other UNCCD-related meetings. Increase in the travel costs reflects the efforts to improve the cooperation and outreach with all Parties, other international conventions, United Nations and other international bodies as well as NGOs.

C. Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

Table 7. Resource requirement for substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total (2000-2001)
Staff-related costs	506.1	606.4	1,112.5
Consultants and experts	125.0	350.0	475.0
Travel of representatives and participants to meetings	25.0	25.0	50.0
Official travel of staff	50.0	100.0	150.0
Contractual services	20.0	70.0	90.0
Grants and contributions (survey and evaluation)	75.0	482.1	557.1
Total resource requirements	**801.1**	**1,633.5**	**2,434.6**

Table 8. Post requirements for substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies

Object of expenditure	2000	2001
A. Professional category and above		
P-5	2	2
P-3	1	1
P-2	1	1
Subtotal A	**4**	**4**
B. General Service category	1	1
Total (A + B)	**5**	**5**

23. The secretariat will strengthen its substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and in broad terms it will:

(a) Provide organizational support for the meetings of bodies, including supervision and preparation of documents;

(b) Provide substantive support to the work programmes and sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology, including such ad hoc panels as may be established;

(c) Cooperate with the organization hosting the Global Mechanism;

(d) Provide, more generally, support to the Conference of the Parties in respect of the latter's functions under article 21 of the Convention; and

(e) Provide the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies such legal advice as may be required.

24. The secretariat will make logistic arrangements for, and provide services and documentation to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and will compile and transmit reports submitted to it by Parties and organizations.

25. In accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology as contained in decision 15/COP.1 and the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology contained in decision 12/COP.2, the secretariat will, in broad terms:

(a) Prepare and organize the meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology, and provide the necessary service to the Committee and to such ad hoc panels as may be established;

(b) Supervise preparation of such studies and prepare such reports as may be requested by the Committee;

(c) Supervise any inter-sessional work in support of the Committee;

(d) Maintain and update the roster of independent experts; and

(e) Assist the Committee in its cooperation with the scientific community, and maintain related contacts with relevant governmental and intergovernmental institutions of both national and international scope.

26. The proposed work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology during the biennium 2000-2001 would include the following topics:

(a) Survey and evaluation of existing networks;

(b) Traditional knowledge, for which the Conference of the Parties at its second session (decision 14/COP.2) appointed an ad hoc panel composed of ten experts;

(c) Early-warning systems in the broadest sense, which subject may also be entrusted to an ad hoc panel; and

(d) Liaison with the scientific community (paragraphs 10 and 11 of the terms of reference of the CST), for which the secretariat provides support by assembling and providing to the Committee an inventory of the services and information provided by relevant national, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and

(e) Maintenance of the roster of experts.

27. In accordance with the requirements of article 25 of the Convention and with its decision 23/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties will have before it the report of the Committee on Science and Technology on the survey and evaluation of relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support implementation of the Convention (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4). The proposed work programme will include facilitation of the second phase of the survey.

28. Another significant part of the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology will concern traditional knowledge. The Conference of the Parties appointed at its second session (decision 14/COP.2) an ad hoc panel, which has been drawing upon the synthesis of the most important and widely applied traditional knowledge compiled by the secretariat (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2). The proposed programme and budget includes the secretariat facilitation and support of the work of the ad hoc panel and the Committee on Science and Technology in this important field.

29. By its decision 12/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties decided that the priority issue to be considered by the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session should be early-warning systems in the broadest sense. The further work on this issue may be entrusted to an ad hoc panel as well. The proposed programme and budget includes the facilitation of, and support to the work of the ad hoc panel and the Committee on Science and Technology on this priority issue. This will include planning of the activities, cooperation with the scientific community, organizing meetings, advice by consultants and travel.

30. Finally, a requirement for legal advice will arise from a variety of activities: arrangements deriving from the institutional linkage with the United Nations; drafting agreements with governments hosting UNCCD-related meetings; issues regarding procedures for the resolution of questions related to implementation (UNCCD article 27) and from conciliation procedures for the settlement of disputes (UNCCD article 28).

31. It is proposed to maintain the same level of core staffing under this unit in the next biennium. In addition to staff-related costs, annual resource requirements are expected to arise in respect of temporary assistance needed to update the roster of experts and to strengthen the capacity of the unit to carry out the increased CST programme workload; travel of CST Bureau members; staff travel, *inter alia*, to service and attend meetings of the ad hoc panels and other scientific bodies; consultancies and ad hoc expert travel; contractual

interpretation and translation services required at CST-related meetings; and contribution towards the cost of the second phase of the survey and evaluation of existing networks.

D. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

Table 9. Resource requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	1,544.0	1,951.6	3,495.6
Consultants	190.0	413.3	603.3
Official travel of staff	120.6	156.1	276.7
Grants and contributions	75.0	250.0	325.0
Total resource requirements	**1,929.6**	**2,771.0**	**4,700.6**

Table 10. Post requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination

	2000	2001
A. Professional category and above		
D-1	1	1
P-5	3	3
P-4	4	7
P-3	3	3
P-2	-	-
Subtotal A	**11**	**14**
B. General Service category	4	5
Total (A + B)	**15**	**19**

32. The proposed work programme under this heading reflects the response to requirements expressed by the Parties. They are:

(a) To assist affected developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting their obligations as set out in the Convention;

(b) To assist the COP and provide information and analysis for its review of progress in the implementation of the Convention;

(c) To promote international cooperation and maximize synergies in the implementation of the Convention; and

(d) To raise awareness on specific aspects of the Convention.

33. The proposed programme and budget period will be the first one when all regions will have prepared their first national reports and will be still in the process of preparing their national, subregional and regional action programmes and starting their implementation. The facilitation of this work in all regions, particularly in Africa in accordance with decision 9/COP.2, requires considerable strengthening of the capacity and services of the secretariat. Increased efforts are also needed to accelerate the preparation and functioning of the regional and interregional priority programmes through consultancies and grants.

34. Projected core budget resource requirements provide for 15 posts in 2000 for the programme. This includes the establishment of the D-1 and P-4 Programme Officer posts for this programme. Nineteen posts are proposed for 2001, reflecting the addition of three Programme Officer posts (P-4) and one secretarial (GS) post. A Principal Coordinator at the D-1 level is essential to strengthen the capacity of the secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the Convention: to supervise the unit; to facilitate cooperation between the regional annexes at the national, subregional, and regional levels; and to develop synergies between the implementation processes of related conventions. A P-4 Programme Officer post is proposed in 2000 to facilitate the preparation and implementation of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention (decision 11/COP.2) and to assist in the integration of the countries of eastern and central Europe in the UNCCD process. In 2001, it is proposed to strengthen each of the units of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean by an additional Programme Officer at the P-4 level in order to meet the increased demands on the secretariat to provide substantive assistance in facilitating the preparation of the national reports and prepare analysis on the progress in the implementation of the Convention. A post of a secretary is necessary to assist the Coordinator.

35. In addition to the staff costs outlined above, annual core budget resource requirements for 2000-2001 to carry out the programme activities described under this heading are provided in table 9 above. Travel estimates provide for travel of staff to the headquarters and regional offices of concerned intergovernmental organizations for meetings, consultations and coordination. Increased estimated requirements for consultancies and resources requested for grants relate directly to the substantive and financial support to affected Parties requesting assistance in the preparation of their national reports and action programmes. Such support is meant to facilitate those activities funded under the Supplementary Fund.

E. External relations and public information

Table 11. Resource requirements for external relations and public information (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	437.1	574.3	1,011.4
Consultants	43.0	53.0	96.0
Official travel of staff	36.0	46.0	82.0
Total resource requirements	**516.1**	**673.3**	**1,189.4**

Table 12. Post requirements for external relations and public information

	2000	2001
A. Professional category and above		
P-4	1	1
P-3	1	1
P-2	2	3
Subtotal A	**4**	**5**
B. General Service category	1	2
Total (A + B)	**5**	**7**

36. Increased information and external relations are needed to strengthen the secretariat's cooperation and outreach with all Parties, in particular with donors. Activities during the coming biennium will also emphasize four main issues: inter-agency coordination, cooperation with non-governmental organizations, public awareness, and library and information services.

Inter-agency coordination

37. The secretariat will continue to promote efficient working arrangements with the organizations concerned. It will strengthen relationships with the secretariats of other relevant conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), international financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, in order to implement the Convention efficiently and avoid duplication of work. The secretariat will need to obtain and channel extensive inputs from relevant partner institutions. Pursuant to the mandate entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat will further develop memoranda of cooperation with partners. The secretariat will obtain as much necessary information as possible through the normal statutory reporting of the relevant agencies, and by attending and following up the meetings of their governing bodies.

38. Additionally, a regular mechanism for consultations will be established in order to maintain the required level of coordination and follow-up on the joint programme of work with key partner agencies involved in the implementation of the Convention, in particular, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the CBD, UNFCCC and the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR), in order to:

(a) Facilitate the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Explore the possibilities of recommending procedures for harmonizing possible cooperation agreements; and

(c) Coordinate the respective programmes of work within the context of work programmes.

39. Special attention has to be given to the strengthening of collaborative arrangements with the convention secretariats mentioned in the preceding paragraph, particularly in the information management field. In conformity with the recommendations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, the UNCCD secretariat intends to give special priority to the collaboration with these conventions for the enhancement of a global information capacity, which is perceived as a prerequisite for an integrated promotion of sustainable development.

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations

40. The participation of non-governmental organizations is indispensable for the successful implementation of the Convention. The programme aims to continue assuring the effective participation of the NGO community at all levels and in all areas of the implementation of the Convention.

Public awareness

41. As regards public awareness and in support of the implementation of the objectives set out in UNCCD article 19, paragraph 3, the secretariat will continue to facilitate communication with, and among Parties in combating desertification. It will continue to strengthen its information programme, to initiate new awareness-raising activities, and to provide support to affected country Parties upon request in the dissemination of information at the local level towards the full implementation of the Convention.

Information and library services

42. The Secretariat will play the role of a facilitator and clearing house in providing information to partners. The UNCCD library, when staffed, will work closely with other partner organizations in providing reference material.

43. This programme would be carried out by the External Relations and Public Information Unit, comprising 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 P-2s and 1 General Service posts in 2000. This reflects an increase of one P-3 for the Information Systems Manager in 2000, and a P-2 Librarian and one GS Local Area Network (LAN) assistant in 2001. The Information Systems Manager and LAN assistant are currently funded from voluntary contributions. But due to the permanent and core functions provided by the information technology staff, it is proposed to include these posts under the core budget. There is also a need for a Librarian to organize and make available as reference material documents and publications and to serve as foundation of the UNCCD public awareness programme. It is also proposed to include this post under the core budget as the information service is one of the core functions of the secretariat.

44. Apart from staff-related costs, other estimated annual core costs comprise consultancies that may be required, including to compile information and prepare assessment reports and press articles, and staff travel for consultations with, and to attend meetings, of related United Nations bodies and conventions, as well as other organizations.

F. Administration and finance

Table 13. Resource requirements for administration and finance (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	772.6	763.2	1,535.8
Consultancies	25.0	25.0	50.0
Official travel of staff	20.0	30.0	50.0
General operating expenses	308.5	308.0	616.5
Supplies and materials	60.0	100.0	160.0
Equipment and furniture	120.0	100.0	220.0
Contributions to joint services	260.0	350.0	610.0
Total resource requirements	**1,566.1**	**1,676.2**	**3,242.3**

Table 14. Post requirements for administration and finance

	2000	2001
A. Professional category and above		
P-5	1	1
P-3	2	2
Subtotal A	**3**	**3**
B. General Service category	3	3
Total (A + B)	**6**	**6**

45. The objective of this programme is to provide adequate personnel and timely financial and general services support to the work programme of the Conference of the Parties and its secretariat.

46. By decision 3/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties, inter alia, accepted the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide administrative and support arrangements for the Convention secretariat. Pursuant to this decision, detailed arrangements have been worked out whereby the secretariat will operate within a wide delegation, by the United Nations, of administrative and financial authority. As regards personnel matters, decisions on the recruitment, promotion, transfer and termination of UNCCD staff are taken by the Executive Secretary and implemented by the United Nations Department of Management. As regards financial matters, the budget exercise falls entirely within the purview of the Conference and its secretariat, while the United Nations provides accounting and internal and external audit services.

47. Within this framework, the secretariat:

(a) Prepares biennial programme and budget proposals for review and approval by the COP;

(b) Administers and controls the budget, once approved, and provides periodic reports thereon to the COP, as well as preparing regular reports for internal management control and decision-making;

(c) Administers, controls and reports on extrabudgetary funds and programmes;

(d) Initiates and undertakes recruitment of staff, including temporary staff and consultants;

(e) Estimates meeting service requirements and ensures provision of those services, in liaison with the host organization;

(f) Manages the travel programme for staff, consultants and Party representatives;

(g) Ensures support to the secretariat and provides central control in respect of requirements for furniture, equipment, communications and other operating requirements;

(h) Initiates and undertakes procurement as required;

(i) Ensures appropriate allocation and utilization of funds in accordance with donors' obligations; and

(j) Provides regular monitoring of project budgets and status of trust funds and other co-financing arrangements.

48. As indicated in paragraph 46 above, the Conference of the Parties decided to accept the offer of the United Nations Secretary-General to provide administrative and support arrangements to the UNCCD secretariat. The United Nations uses the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) for, *inter alia*, its personnel and financial transactions and to generate financial and staff management reports. The personnel module of the system has already been implemented in the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and by the early part of the year 2000 the finance module will also be installed and all personnel and financial transactions in UNOG will then have to be processed through the IMIS. This system is not currently in use or available in Bonn. However, as UNCCD is administratively supported by UNOG, it will need to be able to access the IMIS remotely from Bonn as from the year 2000. The costs of establishing and maintaining such a computer link with UNOG would entail: the initial purchase of three servers, training in UNOG of UNCCD personnel and finance staff, the lease and use of a dedicated line, licence fees, and the recruitment of an IMIS manager (P-3) knowledgeable in the system and UNIX to maintain the system and provide help desk functions. Provisions for these costs have been included in the proposed budget for the coming biennium.

49. The functions in this programme are undertaken by the Administration and Finance Unit, comprising one P-5, two P-3 and three General Service posts financed from the core budget. This reflects an increase of one P-3 post for the IMIS manager.

50. In addition to staffing, annual resource requirements, including those for the secretariat as a whole but which have been centrally provided under this unit, are detailed in table 13 and include:

(a) Other staff-related costs: general temporary assistance for UNCCD peak workload periods and replacement of staff on sick or maternity leave; limited staff training; provision for reimbursement of income taxes to staff members who may be subject to national taxation in respect of their UNCCD emoluments; and staff insurance coverage;

(b) Travel of staff to United Nations Headquarters and offices for meetings, consultation and advice relating to administrative and financial matters; and consultancies that may be required to improve or update the administrative and financial procedures and systems in place; and

(c) Other requirements: general yearly operating expenses for rental and maintenance of furniture, equipment and vehicles, communication costs, rental and maintenance of liaison office premises, Internet subscription and software licences; contributions towards the UNCCD share of joint services in Haus Carstanjen, e.g. general maintenance of the building and common premises, security, utilities, cleaning, postal service and for auditing services from the United Nations; acquisition (for new staff members and new requirements) and replacement of equipment and furniture that may be required; and for office supplies and stationery.

G. Global Mechanism

51. Details on the proposed programme and budget (estimated at US$ 1,750,000 in 2000 and US$ 2,500,000 in 201) for the Global Mechanism are provided in annex.

H. Other expenditure items

Overhead

52. UNCCD accounts are subject to a 13 per cent programme support charge on all actual expenditures incurred. Therefore, on the basis of an expenditure level for the core budget of US$ 7,434,800 in 2000 and US$ 10,180,000 in 2001, the programme support charge can be estimated at US$ 966,500 and US$ 1,323,400 respectively.

Working capital reserve

53. COP 1 determined that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges (decision 6/COP.1, paragraph 7). With the working capital reserve built up in 1999, i.e. US$ 467,500, an amount of US$ 229,800 and US$ 257,500 will need to be appropriated in 2000 and 2001, respectively, to constitute the required working capital reserves.

I. Host country's contribution

54. In accordance with the terms of the offer of the Government of Germany to host the secretariat, the German Government will contribute DM 1,000,000 to the secretariat beyond its commitment as a Party. At the rate of exchange utilized by the United Nations for budgeting purposes (DM 1.76 to the US dollar), this would result in an offset of some US$ 568,000 for each year of the biennium.

V. CONTINGENCY

Table 15. Estimates for contingency
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
United Nations meeting services	2,281.0	2,281.0	4,562.0
Overhead	296.5	296.5	593.0
Working capital reserve	213.9	0.0	213.9
Total estimate for contingency	**2,791.4**	**2,577.5**	**5,368.9**

55. In the event that the General Assembly decides not to include the sessions of the UNCCD COP in its regular budget calendar of meetings, the Parties would have to assume the additional costs relating to conference services.

56. It is assumed that COP 4 and COP 5 and the CST will meet for a total of two consecutive weeks in 2000 and 2001. The allocation of meetings during this period between the COP and the CST will need to be decided at a later stage in the light of the programme of work of each organ. Provision will be required for two weeks of meeting services, allowing for two simultaneous meetings at any time during those two weeks (that is, twenty meetings per week, or forty meetings over the two-week period). Furthermore, provision will need to be made for the translation, processing and distribution of an estimated 1000 pages of pre-session, 100 of in-session and 100 of post-session documentation. The full cost of related requirements comprising translation, interpretation, meeting and documents services, and rental of conference space and equipment can be estimated at US$ 2,281,000 per session making a total of US$ 4,562,000 for the biennium. This would result in additional requirements for programme support costs of US$ 593,000 for the biennium and an operating cash reserve of US$ 213,900 for 2000 (which will be carried over and serve as the reserve for 2001).

Annex

Following is the submission of IFAD for the proposed programme and budget of the office of the Global Mechanism for the biennium 2000-2001.

2000 GLOBAL MECHANISM **CORE BUDGET ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT (USD)**		
1. STAFF COSTS		**USD**
Professional Staff		
Managing Director, D2	(12 months)	180 000
Senior Programme Manager, P5	(12 months)	140 000
Financial Analyst/Systems Manager, P4	(12 months)	120 000
Programme Development Officer, P4	(12 months)	120 000
Senior Programme Development Officer, P5	(8 months)	90 000
PDO Relocation and Recruitment Costs		50 000
Programme Development Officer, P3/P4	(6 months)	60 000
PDO Relocation and Recruitement Costs		50 000
Training/Miscellaneous (Staff Costs)		20 000
Sub-Total Professional Allocation		**830 000**
General Service Staff		
Administrative Assistant, G5	(12 months)	60 000
Secretary to SPM, G4	(12 months)	50 000
Secretary to Financial Analyst & PDO, G4	(12 months)	50 000
Secretary to 2 PDOs, G4	(8 months)	33 000
Overtime		10 000
Sub-Total General Service Allocation		**203 000**
Temporary Staff		
Professional Consultants		115 000
General Service		10 000
Sub-Total Temporary Staff Allocation		**125 000**
2. OFFICE AND GENERAL EXPENSES		
(a) External Auditors' Fees and Expenses	(7710)	5 000
(b) Communications (tel/telex/fax only)	(7420)	50 000
(c) Office Equipment and Maintenance	(7500)	45 000
(d) Hospitality	(7810)	4 000
(e) Other	(7950)	3 000
Sub-Total Office and General Expenses		**107 000**
3. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES		
(a) Duty Travel	(7010)	100 000
(b) Seminars, Consultations and Workshops		100 000
(c) Media, Communications and Networking	(7030)	60 000
(d) Publications	(7060)	50 000
Sub-Total Other Operational Expenses		**310 000**
CONTINGENCY		175 000
TOTAL BUDGET		**1 750 000**

2001 GLOBAL MECHANISM CORE BUDGET ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT (USD)			
1. STAFF COSTS			**USD**
Professional Staff			
Managing Director, D2		(12 months)	190 000
Senior Programme Manager, P5		(12 months)	147 000
Financial Analyst/Systems Manager, P4		(12 months)	126 000
Programme Development Officer, P4		(12 months)	126 000
Senior Programme Development Officer, P5		(12 months)	155 000
Programme Development Officer, P3/P4		(12 months)	126 000
Research Officer, P2		(9 months)	60 000
Training/Miscellaneous (Staff Costs)			30 000
Sub-Total Professional Allocation			**960 000**
General Service Staff			
Administrative Assistant, G6		(12 months)	65 000
Secretary to Senior Programme Manager, G5		(12 months)	57 000
Secretary to Financial Analyst & PDO, G4		(12 months)	52 000
Secretary to 2 PDOs, G4		(12 months)	52 000
Information & Communications Assistant, G7		(9 months)	57 000
Administrative Clerk, G3		(12 months)	44 000
Overtime			30 000
Sub-Total General Service Allocation			**357 000**
Temporary Staff			
Professional Consultants			210 000
General Service			15 000
Sub-Total Temporary Staff Allocation			**225 000**
2. OFFICE AND GENERAL EXPENSES			
(a) External Auditors' Fees and Expenses	(7710)		10 000
(b) Communications (tel/telex/fax only)	70000		75 000
(c) Office Equipment and Maintenance	(7500)		60 000
(d) Hospitality	(7810)		10 000
(e) Other	(7950)		3 000
Sub-Total Office and General Expenses			**158 000**
3. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES			
(a) Duty Travel	(7010)		200 000
(b) Seminars, Consultations and Workshops			200 000
(c) Media, Communications and Networking	(7030)		100 000
(d) Publications	(7060)		50 000
Sub-Total Other Operational Expenses			**550 000**
CONTINGENCY			250 000
TOTAL BUDGET			**2 500 000**

Global Mechanism

Indicative Programme of Work for 2000 and 2001

Expansion of the Office of the Global Mechanism

At the start of the year 2000, the office of the Global Mechanism will have four professional and three general service staff. During the year, two more professional (one P-5 and one P-3/4 post) and one more general service staff post (G4) will be added to the staff contingent. In 2001, one more professional and two more general service staff will be recruited.

With regard to "Temporary Professional and General Service Staff", the core budgets reflect the expected development of the Global Mechanism's activities. Under these budgets, our intention is to finance the initial steps of new initiatives, while further development of such initiatives and of initiatives begun in 1999, will be financed using voluntary contributions from the Global Mechanism's other two accounts.

The budget items under "Office and General Expenses" have been calculated to cover the basic costs of running the GM office. The increase for 2001 compared to 2000, reflects the increase in staffing levels and related general cost increases.

"Other Operational Expenses" cover the travel costs for GM staff, and seminars and workshops to be organised by the Global Mechanism. The increase in 2001 reflects the anticipated increase in activities and initiatives in which the GM will be involved.

Policy Development and Interaction with the Institutions of the Facilitation Committee

The final version of the Operational Strategy will have been approved by the Conference of the Parties, by the beginning of year 2000. On the basis of the strategy, actions will be taken to engage the member institutions of the Facilitation Committee (FC) more actively in the Global Mechanism's (GM) operations. This involvement will be given special attention. The strategy will identify a number of strategic long-term initiatives for the GM. It is also very likely that new initiatives will be identified during the two-year period, such as those indicated below. Some of these initiatives will have already been initiated at the start of the 2000-2001 biennium.

Carbon Sequestration

One such initiative stems from the possibilities for substantial new funding for CCD implementation which carbon trading offers. Carbon sequestration can play a significant role not only in afforestation but also in improving soil quality in agricultural land. Should carbon sequestration emerge as a viable option under the Framework Convention on Climate Change, substantial funds would be available. Such an option would involve the private sector in CCD implementation.

Debt Relief

The heavy debt burden of the least developed countries (LDC) is inhibiting their possibilities in investing in development. Often, the LDCs are also countries suffering from desertification and land degradation. It is therefore of great interest to the GM to follow the developments in the area of debt relief and make sure that options for generating more resources for CCD implementation are properly pursued in this context.

Land and water management

The recent initiative of the World Bank, UNDP, GEF and UNEP with regard to integrated land and water management in Africa, offers the GM scope for co-operation with these institutions and for linking the initiative with Sub-regional and National Action Programmes under the CCD.

Sub-regional Action Plan

On the basis of the proposal for a Sub-regional Action Plan for West Asia, developed in late 1999/early 2000, the Global Mechanism will actively pursue common interests with multilateral, bilateral and region-specific donor institutions.

Soil Fertility

Progress has already been made with regard to integrating the World Bank and FAO joint Soil Fertility Initiative with National Action Programmes in Africa. Similar initiatives are foreseen in other areas too, such as the livestock sector, for instance.

Developing relations with OECD countries

Once there are a number of ongoing initiatives at country, subregional and regional level, there will be a more solid basis for interaction with OECD countries (the bilateral donor community). The Global Mechanism will be able to share its feedback and experiences of how the financing and implementation of the Convention is proceeding with the OECD group and recommend actions to be taken to enhance performance. The GM will seek opportunities to interact with policy setting organs of the OECD group and seek opportunities to address such groups as the OECD-DAC meetings and meetings organised under the auspices of the European Commission discussing development assistance policy. The GM will also use these opportunities

to make a case for requesting financial resources, on a voluntary basis for its own activities.

Targeted resource mobilisation

The number of countries, sub-regions and regions with which the GM will cooperate will increase steadily, it is estimated that seven to ten countries will be included during the year 2000, together with three to four sub-regions and one or two regions. Another fifteen to twenty geographically based initiatives will be added during the year 2001. Early initiatives will mature and give rise to follow-up ones. The total number of initiatives to be managed on a more-or-less continuous basis will therefore increase rapidly. This in turn, will necessitate the development of a flexible management system, involving consultants closely associated with the Global Mechanism, contracted on a retainer basis, for a given number of days per year.

Database development

The development of the database will enter a dynamic phase during the year 2000. The initial work of defining the structure of the database and developing active working relations with partner institutions on this aspect of the GM's mandate, will be well underway by the end of 1999. A number of test cases will be developed and discussed with partners so as to make sure that the database will respond to demands and expectations of the GM's stakeholders.

Specific tailor made applications will be developed so as to provide, for example, necessary statistical information on debt flows and eligibility criteria for debt relief and other information related to debt relief initiatives. In a similar way, information on disaster relief which will be gathered and analysed in relation to desertification trends. The intention being to analyse to what extent disaster relief goes to desertification prone areas and that investments in preventive measures would be a better use of resources than waiting until disaster relief is required.

Other such initiatives will certainly emerge as the database is being developed and the activities of the Global Mechanism expand and find their form.

Meetings, Conferences and Reporting

As the Global Mechanism becomes increasingly better known and engaged in an ever-increasing number of activities, the number of invitations to meetings and seminars in various capacities, will increase. A policy for deciding how to respond to such invitations will be prepared. A balance will have to be struck between technical meetings and conferences, and more policy oriented ones. In addition, the GM will

start organising its own meetings. They will take different forms and meet different objectives, most of which will be developed as the experience of the GM increases. However, it is very likely that bringing together developing and developed country parties to the Convention to discuss experiences of the GM's work at national and sub-regional level will be one aspect of such meetings. It is also likely that meetings of the Facilitation Committee will offer good opportunities to bring together the institutions of the FC with developing country representatives as well as with bilateral donors for discussing experiences and policy directions for the future.

As regards reporting, an effort will be made to streamline reporting requirements to various stakeholders as far as possible, so as to minimise time spent on this type of activity, whilst not underestimating the importance of proper and timely reporting.

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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By decision 2/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties (COP), at its first session, adopted the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat. In accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the financial rules, the Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, respectively.

2. Cost plans for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund for the biennium 2000-2001 have been prepared and are presented in this document for review by the Conference of the Parties.

3. The cost plans follow the same presentation as for the proposed core programme and budget, i.e. activities are presented by UNCCD programmes in within whose scope of work they fall, and a global summary and programme summary tables precede the description of proposed activities.

II. SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

4. Activities to be undertaken under the Supplementary Fund would include: those that may be decided upon by the COP during its third session but for which sufficient funding may not be available under the core budget; assistance to Parties in the preparation of their national, subregional and regional communications for consideration by the Conference of the Parties; and assistance in facilitating the preparation, adoption and implementation of national, subregional, regional and inter-regional action programmes at the request of the affected Parties. The supplementary programme also includes facilitation of the consultative and coordination process, as set out in the relevant regional implementation annexes; and assistance in promoting public awareness of the Convention. Such activities are carried out mainly under the programmes of substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies, facilitation of implementation and coordination, and external relations and public information, and are described hereunder.

Table 1. Summary of Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirements (by programme)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Programme/expenditure items	2000	2001	Total
Programmes			
Support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies	399.1	242.0	641.1
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	6,683.6	6,351.4	13,035.0
External relations and public information	867.5	917.5	1,785.0
Subtotal programmes	**7,950.2**	**7,510.9**	**15,461.1**
Overhead	1,033.5	976.4	2,009.9
Total estimated resource requirements	**8,983.7**	**8,487.3**	**17,471.0**

Table 2. Summary of Supplementary Fund estimated resource requirements (by object of expenditure)
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	717.8	717.8	1,435.6
Consultants and experts	846.0	775.0	1,621.0
Travel of participants and representatives	1,795.7	1,610.7	3,406.4
Travel of staff	497.5	510.7	1,008.2
Contractual services	452.5	452.5	905.0
General operating expenses	40.0	40.0	80.0
Supplies and materials	20.0	20.0	40.0
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	40.0	40.0	80.0
Grants	3,540.7	3,344.2	6,884.9
Subtotal	**7,950.2**	**7,510.9**	**15,461.1**
Overhead	1,033.5	976.4	2,009.9
Total estimated resource requirements	**8,983.7**	**8,487.3**	**17,471.0**

Table 3. Summary of post requirements under the Supplementary Fund

	2000	2001
Professional category and above: P-4	3	3
Total	**3**	**3**

A. Substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies

Table 4. Resource requirements for substantive support to the COP and its subsidiary bodies
Supplementary Fund
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Consultants and experts	135.0	60.0	195.0
Official travel of staff	30.0	24.0	54.0
Grants and contributions	234.1	158.0	392.1
Total estimated resources requirements	**399.1**	**242.0**	**641.1**

5. Under article 25 of the Convention, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall, under the supervision of the COP, provide for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support implementation of the Convention. The COP, at its first session, decided to undertake the first phase of such work (decision 23/COP.1). In the absence of a corresponding budgetary appropriation in the core budget, the initial phase was financed under the Supplementary Fund. In the event that the COP at its third session decides to continue with the second phase of the project during the biennium 2000-2001, a total of some US$ 949,200 would be required. In order to ensure the prompt planning and preparation of the second phase, provision is made under the core budget for part of the estimated costs. However, the balance for the project required for 2000 and 2001 is provided under the Supplementary Fund in the event that the COP decides to finance the balance of the project from voluntary contributions. Likewise, provisions are made under the Supplementary Fund for the balance of estimated requirements for consultancies and experts' travel and for official travel of staff in connection with the work of the ad hoc experts' panels on traditional knowledge and early-warning systems and the programme liaison functions with the scientific community and international organizations.

B. Facilitation of implementation and coordination

Table 5. Resource requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination Supplementary Fund (Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	697.8	697.8	1,395.6
Consultants and experts	661.0	665.0	1,326.0
Travel of participants and representatives	1,513.2	1,278.2	2,791.4
Official travel of staff	435.0	454.2	889.2
Contractual services	100.0	100.0	200.0
General operating expenses	40.0	40.0	80.0
Supplies and materials	10.0	10.0	20.0
Acquisition of furniture and equipment	40.0	40.0	80.0
Grants	3,186.6	3,066.2	6,252.8
Total resource requirements	**6,683.6**	**6,351.4**	**13,035.0**

Table 6. Post requirements for facilitation of implementation and coordination Supplementary Fund

	2000	2001
Professional category and above: P-4	3	3
Total	**3**	**3**

Africa

6. The Africa programme includes activities at national, subregional and regional levels. At the national level, implementation of the Convention is facilitated through the following:

(a) Support to the consultative and participative process to elaborate national action programmes (US$ 500,000 including funding for meetings and consultancies as well as participation of secretariat staff);

(b) Capacity-building: institutional support to strengthen the capacity of national coordinating bodies, development of training programmes for focal points and project managers, and review of the existing legal and budgetary framework. (US$ 550,000 including consultancies, grants for workshops, travel);

(c) Support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs): encouraging the participation of NGOs in Convention activities at the national level (US$ 375,000 including networking, training, awareness-raising, mobilization of stakeholders);

(d) Information support: assistance to affected countries in information management on issues relating to combating desertification and facilitating the development of mechanisms for the collection and exchange of data; promoting the networking of UNCCD focal points and related partners, at an estimated outlay of US$ 370,000 in grants; and

(e) Research programme support: assistance in the organization and convening of workshops on specific national research needs (related costs can be estimated at US$ 100,000, including US$ 85,000 in grants and US$ 15,000 for consultancies).

7. At the *subregional* level, it should be recalled that the relevant African subregional organizations (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)) expect further support towards:

(a) Facilitation of the consultative processes, leading to partnership agreements, through subregional consultations, at an estimated cost of US$ 600,000, covering travel of participants (US$ 450,000) and of staff (US$ 100,000), and external translation and interpretation (US$ 50,000);

(b) Organization of awareness-raising activities and preparation of awareness-raising materials, through the provision of grants (US$ 200,000);

(c) Design of training programmes for focal points in the subregional organizations (US$ 200,000 for consultancies and US$ 50,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 250,000);

(d) Promotion of synergy and complementarity between national and subregional action programmes through transboundary integrated rural pilot projects (US$ 300,000 in grants, US$ 40,000 for travel of staff and US$ 30,000 for consultancies, making a total of US$ 370,000);

(e) Establishment of sustainable institutional networking related to combating desertification, at an estimated outlay in grants of US$ 250,000;

(f) Organization and convening of subregional workshops on specific subjects such as the integrated management of water resources, promotion of renewable energy sources, food security, early-warning systems and mitigation of the effects of drought (US$ 100,000 for travel of participants, US$ 20,000 for travel of staff and US$ 40,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 160,000); and

(g) Participation of NGO representatives at intergovernmental subregional meetings, and the strengthening of NGO capacity to contribute to the subregional process (US$ 100,000, comprising US$ 50,000 for travel of NGO participants, US$ 20,000 for travel of staff and US$ 30,000 in grants).

8. At the *regional* level and with a view to developing the regional action programme process, the African partners will be assisted through:

(a) Facilitation of the consultative processes at the regional level and of the formulation and follow-up of the implementation of the regional action programme in Africa (US$ 250,000 in grants, US$ 50,000 for travel of participants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 310,000);

(b) Support to the establishment of a regional coordination unit (US$ 117,500 for an officer at the P-4 level and US$ 200,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 317,500);

(c) Facilitation of thematic studies and of policy dialogue meetings on issues linked to implementation of the Convention (US$ 30,000 for consultancies, US$ 20,000 for travel of participants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 60,000);

(d) Support for the publication of an activity report for Africa (US$ 30,000 for consultancies and US$ 20,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 50,000); and

(e) Support for NGO participation in intergovernmental meetings, and strengthening NGO capacity to contribute to the regional process (US$ 25,000 for travel of NGO representatives, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff and US$ 15,000 in grants, making a total of US$ 50,000).

Asia

9. At the *national* level, support will include the following:

(a) Support to the consultative and participatory process to facilitate the conclusion of partnership agreements. Such support would be provided for meetings, consultancies and participation of the secretariat (US$ 350,000);

(b) Provision of institutional support to strengthen the capacity of national coordinating bodies for the preparation of national action programmes in approximately 10 countries (US$ 400,000 in grants, US$ 20,000 for consultancies and US$ 50,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 470,000);

(c) Capacity-building for the development of a training module (US$ 30,000 for consultancies), and support to the holding of three training workshops (US$ 150,000 for travel of participants and US$ 45,000 for travel of staff, making a total of US$ 225,000);

(d) Support to non-governmental organizations: supporting the institutional capacity of NGOs; assistance to pilot projects in support of national action programmes; strengthening NGO networking and awareness-raising activities (US$ 300,000); and

(e) Awareness-raising and information support: facilitating support for national action programmes through awareness-raising workshops in the context of national action programme preparation in selected countries (US$ 60,000); the establishment of data collection systems (US$ 10,000 for consultancies); and translation of the UNCCD into local languages (US$ 10,000 for external translation);

10. At the *subregional* level, it is anticipated that the following support will be provided:

(a) The provision of substantive and financial support for two meetings to support partnership agreements for the further development of the western Asian subregional action programme, co-organized with the Global Mechanism (2 x US$ 40,000 in grants, US$ 10,000 for consultancies and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff: total estimated cost US$ 100,000);

(b) Organization of a workshop and provision of assistance for follow-up activities to address drought, water and land degradation issues in the South Pacific island countries (total cost of US$ 125,000, comprising US$ 75,000 for the workshop and US$ 50,000 for supporting the NAP processes and capacity-building in selected countries);

(c) Provision of substantive and financial support in 2000 to coordinate a subregional programme for the Aral Sea basin (US$ 40,000 in grants, US$ 5,000 for travel of secretariat staff, US$ 5,000 for consultancy, making a total of US$ 50,000), as well as support in 2001 for activities under this programme for an amount up to US$ 30,000 (total US$ 80,000);

(d) Organization of a consultation in countries of Central Asia to enhance cooperation (total cost of US$ 117,000 comprising US$ 7,000 for consultancies, US$ 10,000 for travel of secretariat staff and US$ 100,000 in grants); and

(e) Supporting participation of NGOs and strengthening NGO capacity in the subregional process (US$ 50,000 for 2000, comprising US$ 25,000 for travel of NGO participants, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff and US$ 15,000 in grants; and US$ 50,000 for 2001, making a total of US$ 100,000).

11. At the *regional* level, support will entail:

(a) Support for progress on the thematic programme networks. A total of US$ 420,000 is required (US$ 90,000 for consultancy, US$ 30,000 for staff travel and US$ 300,000 for the workshops);

(b) Convening of the third regional conference in Asia in 2000 (estimated cost of US$ 230,000, including US$ 200,000 for the meeting, US$ 20,000 for consultancy, and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff);

(c) Support for a meeting of selected national focal points in Asia in 2001 (total of US$ 90,000, including US$ 70,000 for travel of participants, US$ 10,000 for travel of staff and US$ 10,000 for meeting-related costs);

(d) Support for the establishment of a Regional Coordination Unit (P-4 staff post and secretary, travel, operating costs, overhead charges (total of co-financing US$ 117,500 per year for a P-4 level officer and US$ 50,000 in grants); and

(e) Support for NGO participation in intergovernmental meetings, and strengthening NGO capacity to network and coordinate their contribution to the regional process, particularly the thematic workshops (US$ 30,000).

Latin America and the Caribbean

12. At the *national* level, support will be provided for:

(a) The consultative and participatory process to facilitate the conclusion of partnership agreements. Such support would be in the form of funding for meetings and consultants, as well as participation of the secretariat staff (US$ 200,000);

(b) Participation in national UNCCD workshops, to support the national action programme process in five countries (US$ 65,800);

(c) Capacity-building to strengthen the capacity of focal points, and national coordinating bodies, and development of training programmes for project managers. This support would be provided in the form of funds for the recruitment of consultants, for the travel of experts, and for grants to organize and conduct workshops, particularly in Central American countries (US$ 353,400); and

(d) Institutional support: launching of 10 institutional support projects to strengthen the capacity of focal points and national coordinating bodies (10 grants of US$ 30,000 for a total of US$ 300,000 and US$ 100,000 for consultancies to assist in various aspects of institutional support, making a total of US$ 400,000).

13. At the *subregional* level, it is proposed that the following activities will be supported:

(a) Provision of support for a meeting with donor countries and agencies, with the aim of securing assistance for the protection of Hispaniola (US$ 37,500);

(b) Provision of support for a meeting with donor countries and agencies, with the aim of securing financial and technical assistance for the Gran Chaco Americano project (US$ 27,800);

(c) Provision of support for three training courses in the subregions of Central and South America and the Caribbean for administrators of the Information Network on Drought and Desertification in Latin America and the Caribbean (DESELAC) (US$ 75,400);

(d) Provision of technical and financial support for hosting a special training course on the implementation of the UNCCD in the eastern Caribbean countries (US$ 20,000);

(e) Provision of support for a six month consultancy service for assistance in the development of subregional action programmes for the eastern Caribbean and Central America (US$ 42,000);

(f) Provision of support for a meeting on assessment of the implementation of the Convention in Central American countries, an activity deemed very important to this subregion which is the most disadvantaged in the region as a whole (US$ 123,300);

(g) Organization and convening of a subregional workshop on watershed management (US$ 156,900); and

(h) Organization of a joint workshop with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for eastern Caribbean states regarding the implementation of a subregional project on land degradation and biodiversity (US$ 43,500).

14. At the *regional* level, support will entail:

(a) Provision of financial and substantive support for the organization of the 6th and 7th regional meetings for Latin America and the Caribbean and the 3rd and 4th technical workshops in the Central American subregion, including consultancies and travel (US$ 526,400); and

(b) Provision of support for the Regional Coordination Unit, the body responsible for general coordination of all the projects of the regional action programme (US$ 220,000 per year).

Northern Mediterranean

15. At the *national* level, substantive support will be provided on request in terms of preparing and participating in meetings and working groups aimed at facilitating the implementation of the UNCCD. This would involve staff travel (US$ 60,000 for the biennium).

16. Support can also be envisaged in terms of support to stakeholders by facilitating the holding of NGO forums to raise awareness, to encourage their networking and coordination and to promote their participation in national action programme elaboration and implementation,; supporting NGO activities that generate

interest through the sensitization of the public at large, including the private sector, local government and authorities, women and youth (US$ 100,000 in grants for the biennium).

17. At *the regional level*, further assistance can be envisaged in terms of:

(a) Substantive support for and participation in the preparation of the regional action programme and other regional meetings;

(b) Consultative activities in awareness-raising and promotion of cooperation between institutions of the region, to facilitate and promote the implementation of the UNCCD in the northern Mediterranean;

(c) Awareness-raising and information support activities and the establishment of an electronic newsletter on the northern Mediterranean countries through the UNCCD secretariat web site; and

(d) Sponsoring participation of NGO representatives in selected regional and global events, in particular meetings on traditional knowledge and the COP, and strengthening their capacity to network and coordinate their contribution at the regional level (US$ 100,000 in grants for the biennium).

Other countries

18. This heading covers affected European country Parties to the Convention, which fall at present under none of the existing regional implementation annexes but have expressed an interest in combating desertification within the scope of the UNCCD. The Conference of the Parties, by its decision 11/COP.2, urged observer countries from eastern and central Europe to take appropriate action to become parties to the Convention, thereby facilitating adoption of the additional regional implementation annex to the Convention. Substantive support is being provided on request.

19. At the *national* level, support is envisaged to start the process of preparation of national action programmes, to strengthen national focal points and to assist NGOs in raising awareness and enhancing the role of women and youth. This support will include:

(a) Support for the consultative process for the preparation of national action programmes in six countries (US$ 70,000, comprising US$ 60,000 in grants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff);

(b) Capacity-building: strengthening national focal points' capacities in six countries (US$ 100,000, comprising US$ 90,000 in grants and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff); and

(c) NGO support: strengthening capacities of NGOs in six countries in carrying out their activities aimed at the implementation of the Convention (US$ 60,000 in grants).

20. At the *regional* level, activities will be aimed at sponsoring, upon request, development of cooperation between interested country Parties to the Convention on matters related to land degradation, and may include:

(a) An expert group meeting to facilitate transboundary cooperation among neighbouring countries facing similar problems of land degradation (US$ 25,000, comprising US$ 5,000 for consultancies, US$ 15,000 for participation of experts and US$ 5,000 for travel of staff); and

(b) A workshop for national focal points of affected countries from eastern and central Europe to facilitate development of regional cooperation (US$ 60,000, comprising US$ 45,000 for participation of focal points, US$ 5,000 for consultancies and US$ 10,000 for travel of staff).

Interregional activities

21. In addition to the activities described above for the different geographical regions, it will be necessary to provide required support, monitoring and evaluation, in particular, to ensure that activities contribute to overall coordination between these regions and respond to global concerns.

22. Support will be provided for the following activities:

(a) At the global level, participation of a selected number of representatives of Parties in reviewing the partnership-building capacity of ongoing consultative processes (US$ 70,000);

(b) Development, jointly with the Global Mechanism, of a guideline manual on options and procedures for partnership-building (US$ 50,000);

(c) The programme of studies of the secretariat, through four studies to be developed jointly with concerned agencies (US$ 200,000); and

(d) A workshop on the linkages between combating desertification and biodiversity protection of drylands (US$ 100,000).

23. As regards specific activities at the interregional level, the third Asia-Africa Forum is due at a cost of US$ 150,000. A meeting to foster interregional cooperation between the countries of eastern Europe, the Transcaucasus and Central Asia is foreseen at a cost of US$ 100,000. The second Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum will be held in Bamako, Mali, with the participation of a limited number of representatives from countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, and from institutions (US$ 75,000).

Summary of resource requirements for the programme

24. In addition to the core posts detailed in table 10 of document ICCD/COP(3)/2, more technical assistance will be required under the facilitation of implementation and coordination programme to assist in the development, monitoring and evaluation of support provided at the request of affected Parties. An amount of US$ 497,100 is therefore proposed to cover annual costs of three P-4 posts (heads of the Regional Coordination Units in the Africa, Asia, and Latin America and Caribbean regions), and related clerical assistance. The secretariat will continue to mobilize donor support for these specific requirements.

25. The activities outlined in paragraphs 6 to 24 above will require resources estimated at US$ 5,330,200 for Africa, US$ 3,342,200 for Asia, US$ 2,832,600 for Latin America and the Caribbean, US$ 320,000 for the northern Mediterranean, US$ 465,000 for other countries, and US$ 745,000 for interregional activities, or a total of US$ 13,035,000 for the biennium 2000-2001.

C. External relations and public information

Table 7. Resource requirements for external relations and public information
Supplementary Fund
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Staff-related costs	20.0	20.0	40.0
Consultants and experts	50.0	50.0	100.0
Travel of participants and representatives	282.5	332.5	615.0
Official travel of staff	32.5	32.5	65.0
Contractual services	352.5	352.5	705.0
Supplies and materials	10.0	10.0	20.0
Grants	120.0	120.0	240.0
Total	**867.5**	**917.5**	**1,785.0**

Coordination with non-governmental organizations

26. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Convention and their contribution to the meetings of the Parties is a necessary component of the successful implementation of the Convention. In order to facilitate the effective participation of the NGO community at all levels in the implementation of the Convention and on the basis of experience, the following activities are envisaged:

(a) Providing support to, and coordinating, NGO participation in the COP: for travel and subsistence allowance for NGO representatives (US$ 480,000);

(b) Secretariat support and facilitation of NGO preparations and coordination of the two half-day NGO/government dialogues during each COP (US$ 60,000 for the biennium);

(c) Providing support to NGOs at the interregional level with a view to facilitating the establishment of north-south and south-south partnerships (US$ 40,000 for grants for the biennium);

(d) Facilitating substantive and financial support for NGO initiatives aimed at contributing information and experience to the subsidiary bodies of the UNCCD. Support will be given in the form of five grants (US$ 100,000 for the biennium);

(e) Encouraging the participation of community-based organizations by developing mechanisms for attracting their participation at all levels; and

(f) Providing institutional support to NGOs to strengthen their capacity to communicate internationally and locally, by supporting their communicative and networking capacity (US$ 40,000 for the biennium).

Public information

27. As regards public awareness and in support of the objectives set out in article 19, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the secretariat will continue to facilitate communication with, and among Parties involved in combating desertification.

28. In particular, it will aim at promoting, on a permanent basis, access by the public to relevant information; facilitating development and dissemination of educational and public awareness material, where possible in local languages; addressing formal as well as informal educational programmes; raising awareness of the problem of desertification, of its globality, and its interrelations with other social and environmental issues, in particular, biodiversity and climate change.

29. In this framework, the programme of work of the External Relations and Public Information Unit will focus on five main areas as follows:

(a) Briefings: this will include, as a permanent activity, the holding of briefings for government missions, agencies and research institutions in order to keep them informed of the activities being undertaken;

(b) Publications and information dissemination: this will include writing, editing, translation, design, layout and printing or reprinting of miscellaneous UNCCD information. The activities proposed for the biennium 2000-2001 include the following, for an estimated total of US$ 210,000:

(i) Updated versions of the UNCCD information kits have been finalized in three United Nations official languages and need to be published and distributed in the remaining three (US$ 100,000 for the biennium);

(ii) The UNCCD newsletter: it is currently produced in collaboration with the UNEP Information Unit for Conventions (IUC) and the United Nations Office at in Geneva (US$ 12,000 for the biennium);

(iii) Other publications: printing and reprinting of other existing UNCCD publications (US$ 40,000 for the biennium); and

(iv) Translation of existing publications in other languages (US$ 58,000);

(c) Events, campaigns, awareness-raising initiatives: the UNCCD secretariat faces an increasing demand for information on the various aspects of desertification, its interrelations with biodiversity, climate change, food security and poverty; at the same time, it is requested to provide further support in disseminating information at the local level and/or to specific constituencies, through adequate tools. In this framework, initiatives for the 2000-2001 biennium foresee an estimated total cost of US$ 349,000, which includes costs of travel (US$ 25,000) and consultancies (US$ 15,000), and support for the following activities for the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, which could include:

(i) Organization of regional events and field trips for selected participants to affected areas (US$ 35,000); and

(ii) Initiatives targeting schools and youth: in collaboration with UNESCO and other agencies, the UNCCD secretariat will produce and distribute a teachers' kit aimed at facilitating the interdisciplinary approach to desertification and related issues. It will include a pilot phase, youth guide, selected case studies and two comics booklets (US$ 274,000);

(d) Media focus: media initiatives are mostly conducted in collaboration with UNEP/IUC, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) network, and other agencies as appropriate. For the biennium 2000-2001 the following initiatives are foreseen (US$ 150,000):

(i) Press seminars, distribution of press releases, regionally based briefings, press conferences and journalists' tours; support for participation of selected journalists in sessions of the COP (US$ 120,000); and

(ii) Press kit: in response to the specific requests for information by the media, this will be produced in collaboration with UNESCO, UNEP, FAO and used in all press-related events (US$ 30,000);

(e) Advertising and promotional activities: these activities would complement the programmed events and could include promotional items to raise the profile of desertification (US$ 50,000).

Information and library services

30. The purpose of the information services is to strengthen the role of the secretariat in facilitating the flow of information among the key participants in the UNCCD process, in particular national focal points of the Parties to the Convention as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, in their efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention. The system will deal with information in various forms relevant to the specific needs of national focal points on policy-making, programme development and implementation, science and technology, education, training and awareness, at the national, subregional, and regional levels. The secretariat will play the role of a facilitator and clearing-house in providing information to partners, in order to more effectively fulfil its mandate in providing capacity-building and assistance to Parties, for the communication of information and review of implementation of the Convention.

31. As regards the library, it will work closely with other partner organizations to provide a facility where reference material will be kept and made available. The library will serve as part of the foundation of the UNCCD public awareness programme. It is anticipated that an annual provision for library subscriptions will be required (US$ 5,000).

32. Estimated resource requirements for specific projects and activities planned under the external relations and public information programme to be financed from the Supplementary Fund as detailed in table 7 are US$ 867,500 in 2000 and US$ 917,500 in 2001.

III. SPECIAL FUND

Table 8. Resource requirements for the Special Fund
(Thousands of US dollars)

Object of expenditure	2000	2001	Total
Travel of representatives and participants in meetings	1,400.0	1,400.0	2,800.0
Overhead	182.0	182.0	364.0
Total estimated resources requirements	**1,582.0**	**1,582.0**	**3,164.0**

33. Activities under the Special Fund relate to the facilitation of participation of developing country Parties, especially the least developed countries, in the UNCCD process. Participation of eligible representatives of affected developing and least developed country Parties in the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties, in the Bureau meetings and other UNCCD-related meetings, will be covered by this Fund. On the basis of experience to date and the anticipated increase in the number of eligible country Parties, related expenditures for 2000 and 2001 can be estimated at US$ 1,582,000 per year of the biennium.